

## Technical Notes

### DEFINITIONS

- **Case:** a person diagnosed with the disease and entered into the respective surveillance reporting system. If the same infection occurs within 30 days of the original case report date, the infection is deemed a repeat infection, an inadequately treated infection or duplicate report and is not counted.
- **HIV (not AIDS):** an HIV infected case that has not progressed to AIDS.
- **AIDS:** an HIV infection reported as an AIDS defining condition, or a concurrent diagnosis of HIV infection and AIDS. All AIDS cases are persons infected with HIV, but not all persons infected with HIV are AIDS cases.
- **HIV/AIDS:** this term is used to refer to 2 categories of diagnoses: (1) a diagnosis of HIV infection (not AIDS), and (2) a diagnosis of AIDS. Once an HIV (not AIDS) case meets the AIDS case definition, it will be counted as an AIDS case. Since HIV infection may be seen as a continuum, the data presented in this report will be shown as HIV/AIDS where possible, where each case is counted as either HIV (not AIDS) or AIDS.
- **Year to Date** represents the time period starting January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending the last day of the reporting quarter. For example, year to date in the second quarter of 2008 is the period between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 and June 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.
- **Report date** is the date the morbidity is entered into the database at the Division of Disease Prevention/Virginia Department of Health. STD and HIV/AIDS reports are based on report date unless otherwise indicated.
- **Diagnosis date** is the date the disease was diagnosed by a health professional. Statistical reports prepared based on diagnosis dates are likely to change over time, given that some delays in reporting the disease to the health department may occur.
- **Reporting delay** is the time between diagnosis of HIV infection or AIDS and report to the health department surveillance program. This delay may differ among exposure, geographic, racial/ethnic, age, sex, and vital status categories.
- **Living HIV/AIDS:** total number of cases diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, minus those who have died. This report provides an estimate number of living HIV/AIDS by using the number people who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and reported within the database, e-HARS, and are not known to have died. When active (e.g., review of charts at provider's offices) or passive (e.g., receipt of death certificate from Division of Vital Records) surveillance indicates that a patient with HIV or AIDS has died, the reporting database is updated to reflect this information.
- **Risk:** The classification of a case that summarizes the risk factor most likely to have been responsible for transmission. Cases are counted only once in a hierarchy of transmission categories. Persons with more than 1 reported risk factor for HIV infection are classified in the transmission category listed first in the hierarchy. The exception is men who report sexual contact with other men and injection drug use; this group makes up a separate transmission category.
- **Age Groups**

**Age at diagnosis:** age group tabulations are based on the person's age when the earliest positive HIV test was documented for HIV (not AIDS) cases. For AIDS cases, age group tabulations are based on the person's age at diagnosis of AIDS. For HIV/AIDS, age group tabulations are based on age at first diagnosis, whether HIV or AIDS.

**Current age:** Age groups are defined by current age as of the report date for living cases, and age at death for deceased.

- **Total Early Syphilis (TES)** refers to a diagnosis of primary, secondary, or early latent syphilis.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

- Each issue of this report includes information received and tabulated through the last day of the reporting quarter. Data are tabulated using the report date by the Virginia Department of Health\ Division of Disease Prevention, unless otherwise noted. Data are provisional unless otherwise noted.
- **HIV and AIDS reporting:**  
Virginia regulations require reporting of HIV and AIDS cases separately. As a result, a person can be listed as either a Virginia HIV case, a Virginia AIDS case, or as both (HIV and AIDS). A person first diagnosed with HIV infection with no AIDS defining events will always be an HIV case. If at a later time, the patient is diagnosed as AIDS; the person will be listed as both an HIV and AIDS case. If a patient's initial diagnosis of HIV infection is accompanied with an AIDS defining event, the person will be listed as only an AIDS case.  
In the current report, each case is counted as either HIV-infected without AIDS, referred to as HIV (not AIDS), or HIV-infected with AIDS, referred to AIDS. Once an HIV (not AIDS) case meets the AIDS case definition, it will be counted as an AIDS case. Persons with HIV (not AIDS) who are later reported as having AIDS are deleted from the HIV infection (not AIDS) tables and added to the AIDS tables. (<http://www.cdc.gov/HIV/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2004report/technicalnotes.htm>).
- HIV totals are cumulative from July 1989; AIDS totals are cumulative from 1982.
- Cumulative case count includes cases reported from the beginning of the epidemic through the last day of the report quarter date.
- The **race/ethnicity** information listed in this report and the corresponding census categories are: Black (Black or African-American, non-Hispanic); Hispanic (Hispanic ethnicity, regardless of race designation); White (White, non-Hispanic); Asian/Pacific Islander (Asian or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic); American Indian/Alaska Native (American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic); Other (Other, non-Hispanic), and Unknown (no race or ethnicity information was available).
- **Transmission Risks**  
"Men Having Sex with Men (MSM)" includes men who report sexual contact with other men and men who report sexual contact with both men and women.

**"Heterosexual Contact"** includes persons who report specific heterosexual contact with an HIV infected person or with a person at increased risk for HIV infection (e.g., an injecting drug user).

**"Transfusion"** refers to transmitting of HIV via transfusing blood or blood products or transplanting tissue or organs.

**"Multiple Heterosexual Contacts"** is redefined as HIV or AIDS cases having had sexual relations with ten or more lifetime heterosexual partners, or three or more heterosexual partners in the previous twelve months. Prior to October 2001, "Multiple Heterosexual Contacts" indicated HIV or AIDS cases having none of the other identified risk factors, but have had two or more heterosexual partners with undocumented risks.

**"Undetermined/Not Reported"** includes HIV cases not counseled due to medical reasons or who refused counseling. Undetermined/Not Reported also includes AIDS cases lost to surveillance follow-up and for which a risk could not be established.

For more information please see

<http://www.cdc.gov/HIV/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/2004report/technicalnotes.htm>